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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**12 ALLEGED AURORA STREET GANG DRUG TRAFFICKERS CHARGED
IN SECOND PHASE OF CONTINUING FEDERAL AND LOCAL INVESTIGATION**

AURORA, Ill. -- Three months after launching a crack down on violent street gang drug trafficking in this western suburb and charging 20 defendants, federal law enforcement agencies and the Aurora Police Department today began arresting a dozen new defendants in the second round of charges resulting from the ongoing federal, state and local investigation. Aurora police and federal agents had arrested seven defendants by mid-morning and were searching for five others, all members or former members of the Latin Kings or Gangster Disciples street gangs that allegedly control drug-trafficking activity in the city. Three separate criminal complaints filed yesterday and today allege that the defendants participated in conspiracies to distribute powder and crack cocaine in the Aurora area earlier this year.

The new charges allege that the defendants participated in one or more drug-trafficking conspiracies with others, including Juan Corral and Robert Ranjel, both of Aurora and who were among the 20 defendants charged and arrested this past summer. Two new defendants, **Jerry Barker** and **Lavar Harris** allegedly purchased multi-kilogram quantities of powder cocaine from Corral and processed it into crack cocaine. Other new defendants, including **Miguel Montez**,

Raphael Juarides, Steve Liscano, David Bustamante, his brother, **Miguel Bustamante, John Gonzalez, Melvain Poole** and **Ivory Dugar**, allegedly purchased fractional kilogram amounts of cocaine from Corral. Authorities seized approximately 50 kilograms of cocaine when Corral was arrested and also seized approximately \$620,000 in cash, as well as numerous firearms, during the course of the investigation.

“The individuals responsible for distributing crack and powder cocaine and the attendant violence in Aurora should know that federal agencies and the Aurora police are in this together for the long haul,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “We will keep up the pressure so the law-abiding citizens of Aurora can live without the fear of gunfire and drugs riddling their neighborhoods.”

The charges were announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Thomas J. Kneir, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the FBI; Larry Ford, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Aurora Police Chief William J. Lawler; and James W. Martin, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. Assisting in executing the arrest and search warrants today were the Kane County Sheriff’s Office and North Central Narcotics Task Force, the North Aurora Police Department, the Montgomery Police Department, and the Chicago Police Department.

Each of the 12 new defendants was charged with conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine and crack cocaine between approximately March or April and June or July of this year. All of the defendants arrested today were expected to have initial appearances later in the day before U.S. Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown in U.S. District Court. A list of the defendants is attached.

The investigation relied on surveillance, interviews and thousands of court-authorized intercepted conversations on telephones used by various defendants, beginning with a phone used by Ranjel in April.

The seven defendants taken into custody this morning are Jerry Barker, Melvain Poole, Steve Liscano, David Bustamante, Miguel Bustamante, John Gonzalez, and Orlando Delgado. Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the remaining defendants on the attached list is encouraged to contact the Aurora Police Department at (630) 859-1700. Photos of the five fugitives may be obtained from the FBI press office at (312) 786-2645.

If convicted, all of the defendants charged today face a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment without parole and a maximum fine of \$4 million. Note, however, that the Court, will determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Lawrence Beaumont and Christina Egan.

The public is reminded that complaints contain only charges and are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

United States v. Montez, et al., 02 CR 1018

Miguel Montez (aka Gargemel) 217 N. 4th St., Aurora	DOB 2/25/76
Raphael Juarides (aka B.B.) 711 Hamilton, Aurora	DOB 6/7/74
Melvain Poole 437 Lakelawn Blvd., Aurora	DOB 4/8/59
Lavar Harris (aka Smoke) 524 Rosewood Ave., Aurora	DOB 10/11/77
Jerry Barker (aka Batman) 5929 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago	DOB 10/12/67
Steve Liscano (aka Trig) 846 Oliver, Aurora	DOB 5/8/77
David Bustamante (aka Demon) 1371 Hinckley St., Aurora	DOB 5/22/73
Miguel Bustamante 1371 Hinckley St., Aurora	DOB 3/18/70
John Gonzalez (aka Johnny O) 818 Superior St., Aurora	DOB 8/2/74
Ivory L. Dugar (aka Red) Champaign, Ill.	DOB unavailable

United States v. Lira, 02 CR 1025

David Lira address unavailable	DOB 7-24-72
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United States v. Delgado, 02 CR 1026

Orlando Delgado (aka Nandi) 141 Lincolnway, North Aurora	DOB 5/7/81
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Note: The addresses listed were the best known for each defendant prior to arrest.

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